

DECEMBER 2024

PACTE Update



The official newsletter for the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators.
Published 10 times per year. Contact: joel@pac-te.org

Before the Semester Ends

This *Update* shares important news: Final Rule Regarding Postsecondary Programs, PAC-TE Election Results, ATE Connections, and more.

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW:

- March 26: PAC-TE Spring Conference (virtual) Register [Here](#) and save \$.
- Spring Advocacy Day at the State Capitol – date to be determined. Stay tuned.

Final Rule Regarding Postsecondary Programs Leading to State Licensure or Certification

Thanks to Lara Willox, Millersville University, we provide a link to a FAQ document regarding final **rules from the U.S. Department of Education** for programs that lead to state professional licensure or certification. The new regulations apply to all institutions that participate in federal student aid programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (e.g., Pell Grants, Federal Student Loans). Click [here](#) to read the FAQ document, which was written by AACTE staff.

At the Teacher Education Assembly, Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden, Director of PDE's Bureau of School Leadership & Teacher Quality, **clarified a few of the requirements:**

1. EPPs can meet the mandate requirements by becoming a member of NASDTEC.
2. Knowledge Base includes a breakdown of types of certification each state offers thereby making it easier for EPPs to make decisions as to whether graduates of approved programs meet the licensure requirements of other states.
3. The NASDTEC Interstate Compact provides basic questions about certification in PA and other states. It does not provide in-depth information about individual licensure in each state.

4. PA is not a voting member of the Interstate Mobility Compact.



PAC-TE Election Results Add to the Board of Directors

Join us in congratulating the winners in the recent election for open seats on PAC-TE's Board of Directors. Their terms of office (3 years) begin on June 1, 2025, with the exception of our new Treasurer, who begins her term immediately.

Newly elected Board Seats:

Carole Hoy, At-large representative

Tricia Shelton, representing Public Institutions

Jane Wilburne, Treasurer

Re-elected to a second term on the Board:

Veronica Ent, representing Private Institutions

Rachael Stevens, At-large representative

They join nine other elected members on the Board of Directors, which meets five (5) times per year to conduct association business. If you wish to know more about the Board of Directors and the By-laws of PAC-TE, go to <https://www.pac-te.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3295>



Our ATE Connection

PAC-TE is the state affiliate of a national organization known as ATE (Association of Teacher Educators). As such, we (and you!) benefit from the resources, leadership, professional development, networking, and advocacy on your behalf by ATE.

You may or may not know that ATE has a yearly meeting each spring (in New Orleans in 2025), a summer conference (in St. Louis in 2025), a Clinical Practice Fellows Symposium, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Additional benefits include:

- Online subscription to ATE's email newsletter;
- Online subscription to ATE's two quarterly Professional Journals, *Action in Teacher Education* and *The New Educator*;
- Discounts on all meeting, conference, clinics and workshops;
- Discounts on other ATE-sponsored publications;
- Participation in ATE Special Interest Groups (SIGs);

- Access to professional and other insurance;
- Access to ATE's network of members across the country;
- Access to ATE's Members Only online directory and more;
- Vote in ATE Elections; and
- Serve on ATE's Committees, Task Forces, Commissions, and be eligible to run positions on ATE's Board of Directors

The Association of Teacher Educators was founded in 1920 and is the only national, individual membership organization devoted solely to the improvement of teacher education for both school and campus-based teacher educators. Today, ATE members represent nearly 1500 teacher educators in colleges, universities, school districts, and state education agencies within 41 regional and state-affiliated units and US Territories. ATE's representational form of governance offers ATE members an unusually high level of opportunity for national leadership. For example, our own PAC-TE President, Tom Conway, is an elected member of ATE's Board of Directors.

This month, we share ATE President Cheryl Torez's message:

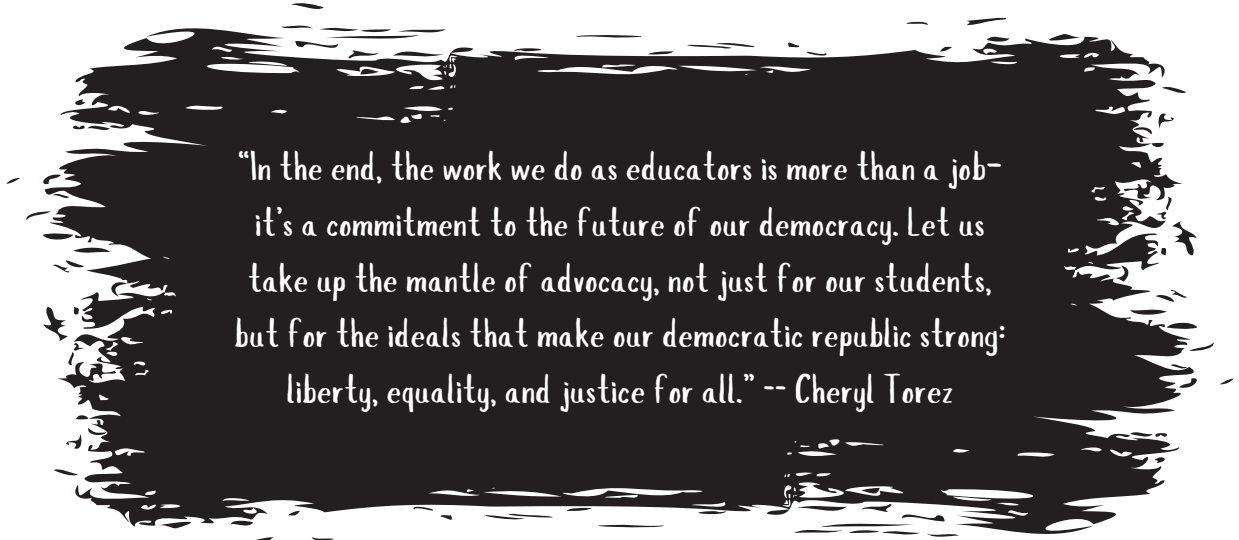
The Vital Role of Advocacy in Teacher Education and Democratic Citizenship

The Power of Education in a Democratic Society

Education is the bedrock of a thriving democratic republic. It is not simply about learning facts or preparing students for careers; it's about equipping the next generation with the skills and values needed to be active, informed, and engaged citizens. In this context, the role of teacher education is not just important—it's fundamental. As we face an increasingly complex and polarized world, the advocacy for quality teacher education, K-12 student success, and the broader mission of education in fostering an informed citizenry has never been more critical.

The Role of Teacher Education

Teacher education is the cornerstone of an effective education system. But it's not just about how well teachers are trained to deliver curriculum—it's about how teachers are prepared to nurture students' minds and character, to inspire curiosity, critical thinking, and a love of learning. Strong teacher preparation programs equip educators not just with the subject knowledge, but with the pedagogical skills to make that knowledge accessible, engaging, and meaningful.



“In the end, the work we do as educators is more than a job—it’s a commitment to the future of our democracy. Let us take up the mantle of advocacy, not just for our students, but for the ideals that make our democratic republic strong: liberty, equality, and justice for all.” -- Cheryl Torrez

However, the work of a teacher does not stop at graduation or initial certification. Teaching is a lifelong journey of growth, reflection, and adaptation. This is why advocacy for robust, ongoing professional development is essential. Teachers must have the tools and resources they need to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world—whether through new technologies, evolving curricula, or adapting to diverse student needs. Advocating for better teacher education isn’t just about improving the classroom experience; it’s about investing in the future of our society.

Advocacy for K-12 Students

The quality of teacher education has a direct, profound impact on K-12 students. Research consistently shows that teachers are the single most influential factor in student achievement. When teachers are well-prepared, students are more likely to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. But it’s not just about test scores—it’s about developing the skills necessary to navigate a complex world. Teachers who are trained to foster critical thinking, creativity, and empathy will help students grow into thoughtful, engaged citizens.

Yet, not all students have equal access to high-quality educators. Disparities in teacher preparation, especially in underfunded and rural areas, contribute to inequitable educational outcomes. This is where advocacy is vital. Educators must speak up for policies that ensure all students, regardless of zip code, have access to the kind of education that will empower them to lead productive, engaged lives.

Education as a Foundation for an Informed Citizenry

In a democratic republic, education serves a purpose far beyond the classroom. An educated populace is the foundation of a thriving democracy. Schools are not just places

for academic learning—they are where students begin to understand their roles in society, their rights, and their responsibilities as citizens. In this context, education becomes a civic duty, a process that prepares students to think critically, engage in meaningful dialogue, and make informed decisions.

The critical thinking skills, ethical reasoning, and problem-solving abilities students develop in schools are essential to their participation in democratic life. It is within the walls of our schools that the values of justice, equality, and democracy must be nurtured and instilled. When students are taught to question, to engage, and to understand the world from multiple perspectives, they are not just prepared to succeed in their careers—they are prepared to participate in shaping the future of our society.

Call to Action: The Need for Advocacy

As educators, we have a responsibility not just to our students, but to our society. We are the ones who shape the next generation of thinkers, leaders, and citizens. This is why advocacy for teacher education, equitable student outcomes, and a robust public education system is so essential. Every educator has a role to play in championing policies that support the profession and the students we serve.

Advocacy can take many forms—whether it’s engaging with local school boards, writing to legislators, joining professional organizations, or even having conversations with friends and family about the importance of education. When we raise our voices collectively, we amplify our impact.

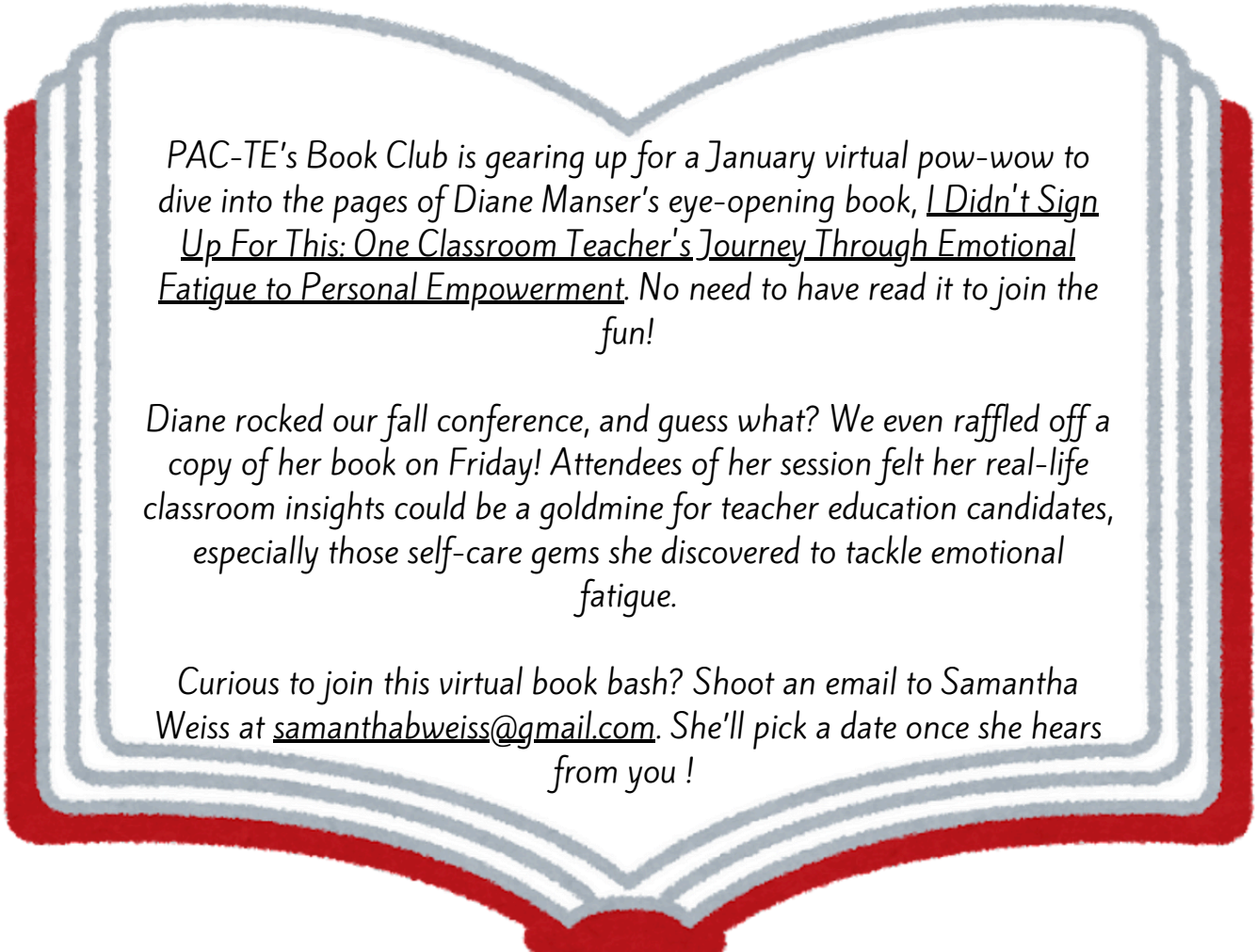
In the end, the work we do as educators is more than a job—it’s a commitment to the future of our democracy. Let us take up the mantle of advocacy, not just for our students, but for the ideals that make our democratic republic strong: liberty, equality, and justice for all.

Kindly,

Cheryl A. Torrez, Ph.D., ATE President 2024-25

If you want to know more about ATE and its upcoming conferences or leadership opportunities, go to <https://www.ate1.org/>





PAC-TE's Book Club is gearing up for a January virtual pow-wow to dive into the pages of Diane Manser's eye-opening book, *I Didn't Sign Up For This: One Classroom Teacher's Journey Through Emotional Fatigue to Personal Empowerment*. No need to have read it to join the fun!

Diane rocked our fall conference, and guess what? We even raffled off a copy of her book on Friday! Attendees of her session felt her real-life classroom insights could be a goldmine for teacher education candidates, especially those self-care gems she discovered to tackle emotional fatigue.

Curious to join this virtual book bash? Shoot an email to Samantha Weiss at samanthabweiss@gmail.com. She'll pick a date once she hears from you!



Special Request for Manuscript submissions for the next edition of *Pennsylvania Teacher Educator* -- Manuscript submissions are due by February 20, 2025.

Submission Guidelines

- Manuscripts should be no more than 12 pages of narrative (exclusive of references, tables, and appendices), using the latest APA style, and double-spaced with one-inch margins.
- Manuscripts should be submitted as an e-mail attachment, sent to PA Teacher Educator at pacte.journal@sru.edu.
- A cover page should include the title of the article, a brief (no more than 50-word) abstract, the name, position, place of employment, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address, and a 2-3 sentence description of background and experience of each author.

- The title of the article should also appear on page 1 of the manuscript, but do not include the name(s) of the author(s) on page 1.
- Pages should be numbered consecutively, including the bibliography, but the author's name should not appear on the manuscript itself.
- Charts or illustrative material will be accepted if space permits. Such materials must be camera-ready. Photographs will usually not be used, unless they are black and white and of high quality.
- Authors are expected to take full responsibility for the accuracy of the content in their articles, including references, quotations, tables, and figures. The editorial board reserves the right to edit articles accepted for publication.
- Authors of manuscripts accepted for publication are asked to sign a copyright release to PAC-TE. This allows PAC-TE to publish the information in the Pennsylvania Teacher Educator, to publish the information in future PAC-TE publications, and to grant permission to persons or organizations that formally request the right to reprint the material in whole or in part.
- Authors of manuscripts accepted for publication are also expected to make a presentation about their article at the PAC-TE Teacher Education Assembly in October.

There is no remuneration for articles accepted for publication, but a complimentary copy of the journal will be mailed to each author. There is no fee for the review of the manuscript.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**